

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 07229

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: 1978 NATO DEFENSE REVIEW: ECONOMICS' SECTION
OF COUNTRY CHAPTERS

1. THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) HAS PROPOSED THAT THE COUNTRY CHAPTERS FOR THIS YEAR'S FALL DEFENSE REVIEW NOT INCLUDE DRC DEVELOPED COMMENTS ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION/OUTLOOK. INSTEAD, THE ECONOMIC SECTION OF THE IS, DRAWING ON DPQ RESPONSES, WOULD PREPARE SEPARATE REPORTS WITHOUT SPACE CONSTRAINTS. THESE SEPARATELY PRODUCED REPORTS WOULD BE DEVELOPED IN PARALLEL WITH THE COUNTRY CHAPTERS, AND A SUMMARY PARAGRAPH(S) CONTAINING COMMENTS RELEVANT TO THE COUNTRY CHAPTERS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE COUNTRY CHAPTERS.

2. THE IS RATIONALE FOR THIS CHANGE IS THAT THE SHORT, TWO OR THREE PAGES, SECTION ON ECONOMICS THAT HAS BEEN TACKED ON TO THE COUNTRY CHAPTERS IN THE PAST IS NOT ENOUGH; HOWEVER, MORE COULD OVERBALANCE THE PRODUCT.
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THE SUMMARY PRODUCED BY THE ECONOMICS SECTION WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY HIGHLIGHTS, BUT WOULD NOT DISCOUNT THE MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS IN THE "ECONOMICS REPORT." WE UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE REACTED TO THIS IS PROPOSAL WITHIN THE PARAMETERS PRESCRIBED BY "SHRIEKS OF DELIGHT" TO "HAPPY ACCEPTANCE." THIS WOULD ALSO HAVE THE EFFECT OF DISENGAGING ECONOMICS FROM THE

TRILATERALS.

3. WE SEE MERIT IN THE IS APPROACH AS REGARDS DROPPING THE CURSORY TREATMENT OF ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS FROM THE COUNTRY CHAPTERS. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, WANT TO RETAIN THE DISCUSSION OF DEFENSE FINANCES, SINCE IT IS VIA THIS PART OF THE DPQ RESPONSE THAT WE CAN ZERO IN ON ALLIED DEFENSE SPENDING PROJECTIONS AND HOLD ALLIES' FEET TO THE FIRE ON THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 3 PERCENT REAL INCREASE TARGET. ACCORDINGLY, WE PLAN TO RESPOND INFORMALLY TO THE IS SUGGESTION ALONG THESE LINES.

4. THE IS WILL BEGIN DRAFTING THE COUNTRY CHAPTERS NEXT MONTH. IF WASHINGTON HAS ANY POINTS IT WISHES TO RAISE ABOUT THE GENERAL MAKE-UP OF THESE CHAPTERS, WE WILL NEED THEM BY 15 AUGUST. BENNETT

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